

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10515

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: CISL SPLIT AVERTED

REF: ROME 9770

SUMMARY: A SPLIT HAS BEEN AVERTED AND THE CISL MAJORITY AND MINORITY FORCES RECONCILED IN A TENSE, FOUR-DAY SESSION OF THE CISL GENERAL COUNCIL. CHARGES AGAINST MINORITY LEADER SCALIA HAVE BEEN DROPPED, MINORITY REPRESENTATION ON THE CISL SECRETARIAT WILL BE INCREASED, AND THE UNITARY PROCESS HAS BEEN PUT OFF FURTHER INTO THE FUTURE. AS A CONSEQUENCE, CISL APPEARS TO HAVE EMERGED REINFORCED AND REUNITED AT A MOMENT IN WHICH ITS POLITICAL PARENT, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, IS SEEKING TO ACHIEVE THE SAME RESULT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE RECONCILIATION OF CONTENDING CISL FORCES, WHICH HAS EMERGED FROM THE CISL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING WHICH ENDED JULY 19, REPRESENTS THE SUCCESSFUL ENACTMENT OF A SCENARIO AUTHORED BY CISL SECRETARY GENERAL STORTI AND CISL FARM WORK-
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ERS SEC GEN SARTORI. THEY WERE ASSISTED INVALUABLY BY CISL

SECRETARY FRANCO MARINI WHO PLAYED A TIRELESS ROLE OF MEDIATION BETWEEN CONTENDING FORCES AND WAS THE CHIEF POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS. SARTORI AND STORTI REACHED AGREEMENT IN ADVANCE THAT, IN EXCHANGE FOR DROPPING CHARGES AGAINST SCALIA, MINORITY FORCES WOULD RENOUNCE ANY INTENTION TO SPLIT FROM CISL. THOUGH THIS SCENARIO WAS IMPERILED AS VARIOUS TIMES THROUGHOUT THE FOUR DAYS, IT ULTIMATELY SURVIVED.

2. THE FIVE-POINT ACCORD (TRANSLATED TEXT WILL FOLLOW), AGREED TO UNANIMOUSLY, CONTAINS THE MAJOR CONCESSION MADE TO MINORITY FORCES: NO LONGER IS CISL PLEDGED TO ORGANIC MERGER WITH CGIL AND UIL "BY END OF 1977." THE ACCORD CALLS FOR THE 1977 CISL NATIONAL CONGRESS (WHICH WAS TO RATIFY THE MERGER AND, PRESUMABLY VOTE CISL OUT OF EXISTENCE) TO "VERIFY DEFINITELY THE EXISTENCE OF THE CONDITIONS" NECESSARY FOR UNIFICATION. THE ACCORD EMPHASIZES CISL'S OPPOSITION TO ALL FORMS OF TOTALITARIANISM AND ITS DEDICATION TO POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL PLURALISM, AND CALLS FOR THE TRAINING OF YOUNG LABOR LEADERS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THESE VALUES.

3. MAJOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE OUTCOME CLEARLY ARE STORTI (PERHAPS STRONGER THAN EVER, CERTAINLY STRONGER THAN IN A LONG TIME), SARTORI (WHO EMERGES AS A MAJOR POWER BROKER) AND MARINI (WHOSE EFFECTIVE DIPLOMACY WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED WHEN THE TIME COMES TO REPLACE STORTI). LOSERS WOULD APPEAR TO BE SCALIA (WHO, IN EFFECT, WAS END-RUN BY EVENTS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THE DETERIORATION OF HIS POLITICAL POWER BASE IN THE DC) AND CISL SECRETARY PIERRE CARNITI, MAJOR SPONSOR OF THE ANTI-SCALIA MOVES. THUS, THE STORTI-SARTORI SCENARIO ACCOMPLISHED ANOTHER OF ITS MAJOR AIMS: THE ISOLATION OF THE LEFT AND RIGHT WINGS IF CISL, AND THE REGROUPING OF OTHER FORCES AT THE CENTER. THE GENIUS OF THE ACCORD IS THAT THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WHILE KEEPING INTACT THE DIGNITY OF BOTH SCALIA AND CARNITI. THE FORMER, IN FACT, HAS AGREED TO RESUME ALL OF HIS FUNCTIONS WITHIN CISL (SUCH AS MEMBERSHIP ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE) FROM WHICH HE HAS RESIGNED IN RECENT TIMES. THE CISL MINORITY MEETING IS STILL TAKING PLACE ON JULY 21-22, BUT ACCORDING TO SCALIA WILL MERELY VERIFY THE AGREEMENTS REACHED IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

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COMMENT: IF, AS NOW APPEARS TO BE THE CASE, CISL IS BOTH REUNITED AND REORIENTED TOWARD A MORE SOBER OUTLOOK ON THE POLITICAL REALITIES IN WHICH IT OPERATES, THE GENERAL COUNCIL ACCORD CAN COME TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN REVERSING THE FORTUNES OF BOTH DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONISM AND OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN ITALY. A UNITED CISL WOULD PROVIDE THE CONTACT WITH THE ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL MASSES WHICH THE DC

FORMERLY ENJOYED AND THE ABSENCE OF WHICH HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED RECENT DC ELECTORAL PERFORMANCES. VOLPE

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